Government has been requested to identify the agency through which the programme is to be implemented. Under the proposed TREAD programme grant not exceeding one-third of the project cost can be made available to the NGOs recommended by the State Government and acceptable to the financial institutions. In the first phase of the programme, it is proposed to take up implementation in 9 cities namely; Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Cochin, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Gauhati. It is also proposed that initially in the first phase of the project about 5,000 women entrepreneurs in each centre will be selected for assistance under the programme.

### Time Video Group

4246. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent probe into the dealings of the "Time Video Group" has revealed involvement of film stars and leading businessmen in Hawala transactions to meet their forex requirements during overseas trips;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). During the course of searches of the premises connected with M/s. Times video and its partners, Income tax Department, Mumbai seized some documents relevant for investigations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. Investigations conducted by the Enforcement Directorate revealed some payments otherwise through authorised channels being carried on by the partners of M/s. Times Video, some film stars and businessmen.

(c) Action as envisaged under the laws is proposed to be taken.

### Soyabean Extraction Units

4247. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Soyabean extraction units in the country and location thereof;

(b) whether the Government have examined the scope of the expansion of these units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). On the basis of tentative information, about 155 solvent extraction plants have processed soyabeen seeds for recovery of oil. Of these, 74, 37 and 17 units are located in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively. The activity relating to setting up of solvent extraction plant is delicensed. And hence any entrepreneur can take investment decision on his own, depending on his commercial judgement.

### Seizure of Narcotics

4248. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of the narcotics seized during each of the last three years, till date; and

(b) the number of persons arrested and convicted so far together with reasons for delay in finalising their cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per the information available details of narcotic drugs seized during the last three years, (upto November, 1996), are as given below :-

| Year | Quantity of Durgs Seized (in KG) Opium | Hero in | Hashish | Metha-qualone | Ganja |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1993 | 30111 | 1088 | 8238 | 15004 | 98867 |
| 1994 | 2256 | 1011 | 6992 | 45319 | 187896 |
| 1995 | 1339 | 1678 | 3629 | 20485 | 121873 |
| 1996 (upto Nov.) | 2141 | 1054 | 5340 | 481 | 42406 |

(b) The number of persons arrested and convicted during the last three years, upto November, 1996, are as given below :-

| Year | Number of Persons Arrested | Convicted |
|---|---|---|
| 1993 | 13723 | 1488 |
| 1994 | 15452 | 1245 |
| 1995 | 14673 | 2456 |
| 1996 (Upto Nov.) | 9183 | 2070 |

The delay in trial is generally due to a large number of cases pending before the criminal courts, which are competent to try cases under the NDPS Act.

### Castism and Communalism in Politics

4249. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any effective measures have been taken by the Government to check the increasing incidents of castism and communalism in politics

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?